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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-third session
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY -
PREVENTION OF THE VIOLENT
DISINTEGRATION OF STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 12 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

As Chairman of the group of Central American countries, including the Dominican Republic, I have the honour to transmit to you a copy of the joint communiqué issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, in San José on 10 February 1998 relating to the threats to international peace and security arising out of the position of the Government of Iraq of not permitting the team of inspectors from the United Nations Special Commission to inspect all the sites and areas required for the exercise of its mandate.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under the items entitled "Consequences of the Iraqi occupation of and aggression against Kuwait" and "Maintenance of international security - prevention of the violent disintegration of States", and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ricardo G. CASTANEDA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Joint communiqué

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic, meeting on the occasion of the Fourteenth Ministerial Conference on Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation between the European Union and the Member States of the Central American Integration System, held in San José on 10 February 1998, have decided to issue the following joint communiqué:

1. The Central American countries and the Dominican Republic share the concern of the international community at the deterioration of the situation in Iraq, which poses a serious threat to international peace and security.

2. The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Central America and the Dominican Republic, in noting this problem, urge the Government of Iraq to comply with all the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and, in particular, to authorize the resumption of inspections by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) of all the sites and locations required by its mandate.

3. The Ministers reiterate their belief that all diplomatic efforts must be made and all possible channels exhausted in order to resolve this issue peacefully. Such efforts must include the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by the Charter of the Organization.

UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

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A/53/68
23 February 1998

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-third session
Item 86 of the preliminary list*

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Letter dated 19 February 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Poland and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland in the matter of creating a joint military unit to participate in international peace and humanitarian operations under the auspices of international organizations, signed at Warsaw on 26 November 1997 by the Minister of Defence of Ukraine and the Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland.

We should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly, under item 86 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Eugeniusz WYZNER
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of
the Republic of Poland to
the United Nations

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the United
Nations

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Agreement between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland in the matter of creating a joint military unit to participate in international peace and humanitarian operations under the auspices of international organizations, signed at Warsaw on 26 November 1997

Whereas Ukraine and the Republic of Poland, hereinafter referred to as Parties hereto are guided by the goals and principles delineated in the Charter of the United Nations as well as the resolutions set forth in the documents of regional organizations concerning multilateral cooperation to maintain peace and international security; and

Whereas they are executing that which was resolved in Articles 3 and 45 of the Treaty on Good-neighbourliness, Friendly Relations and Cooperation between Ukraine and the Republic of Poland, signed at Warsaw on 18 May 1992;

The Parties hereto have agreed to the following:

Article 1

1. The Parties hereby establish a joint military peace battalion, hereinafter referred to as the "Battalion".

2. A separate agreement executed between the ministries of defence of the Parties hereto shall specify the structure of the Battalion, how many troops it will have, how it will be trained, commanded and equipped and the extent of participation of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland.

3. The ministries of defence of the Parties hereto shall designate separate detachments along with equipment from the structure of the armed forces in each of the countries, which detachments shall be incorporated in the composition of the Battalion. Until such time that they are made subordinate to joint command, they will remain within the structure of the armed forces of that country to which they belong.

4. The Ukrainian portion of the Battalion shall be stationed on a permanent basis within Ukraine; the Polish portion of the Battalion shall be stationed on a permanent basis within the Republic of Poland. The location of the Battalion's base when preparing for actions in the area of operation in which the Battalion is going to participate will be agreed upon by the ministries of defence of the Parties hereto on a case-by-case basis.

Article 2

1. The Battalion may participate in international peace operations:

(a) Conducted by the United Nations whose mandate has been approved by the Security Council of the United Nations as well as those conducted by other international organizations responsible for maintaining peace and international security in compliance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations;

(b) Conducted by multinational forces established with the consent of the Security Council of the United Nations.

2. The Battalion may participate in international peace operations of the forces and organizations enumerated in paragraph 1 of this article provided that they are being conducted for the purpose of doing the following:

(a) Preventing the outbreak of international and domestic conflicts;

(b) Resolving or creating conditions to resolve international and domestic conflicts with the consent of the parties to the conflict at hand;

(c) Providing humanitarian assistance to people who have suffered as a result of international and domestic conflicts;

(d) Providing assistance to countries in liquidating the effects of conflicts;

(e) Removing threats to peace, circumstances where peace is breached, acts of aggression or resolving international and domestic conflicts.

3. Tasks performed by the Battalion shall be derived from the resolutions of the international organization which has undertaken a given operation and shall be subject to approval by the proper bodies of the Parties hereto.

4. The Battalion's participation in international peace operations shall be effected by directing it and making it subordinate to the bodies delineated in the mandate of the proper international peace organization after both Parties hereto agree to undertake such operation.

5. The Battalion shall be withdrawn from operations by virtue of a decision handed down by the proper bodies of the Parties hereto, where the rendering of such a decision by the proper body of even just one of the Parties hereto shall cause the entire Battalion to be withdrawn.

Article 3

1. The Battalion Command shall be composed of the Commander of the Battalion and the Chief of Staff - the Battalion First Deputy Commander subordinated to the Commander of the Battalion. The duties of the Battalion Commander shall be discharged on a rotating basis by an officer of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and an officer of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, where the duties of the Chief of Staff in the Battalion are discharged by an officer of the other Party's armed forces. The officers listed above are appointed to these posts after agreement is reached by the ministries of defence of the Parties hereto.

2. Until such time that the individual national contingents of the Battalion are subordinated to the Command mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article, they are subordinated to the command of the armed forces of the Parties to which they belong.

3. The Battalion Commander is subordinate to the following:

(a) The command of the armed forces of the Party to which it belongs when the Battalion is being trained;

(b) The command of the armed forces of the Parties they determine on a case-by-case basis when jointly adapting and preparing the Battalion for actions in a region where an international peace operation is being conducted;

(c) The body specified in article 2, paragraph 4, of this Agreement while maintaining constant contact with the ministries of defence of the Parties for the duration of their participation in international peace operations.

4. The Battalion's official language shall be English. The personnel of the Battalion may also use Ukrainian or Polish.

Article 4

1. The Battalion Commander and other people in charge in the Battalion shall have the right to issue orders to subordinate soldiers regardless of whether they are members of the Armed Forces of Ukraine or the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland. These soldiers shall be obliged to discharge the commands received provided that they are not in conflict with the internal law of the country of which they are citizens and provided that they are related to the goals for which the Battalion was founded.

2. The right to issue the orders mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article shall be in force when the Battalion is undergoing joint training, preparing for action in a region of operation in which the Battalion is going to participate and for the duration of participation in such operation.

3. The use of firearms and means of direct force by the Battalion's soldiers in the region where an international peace operation is being conducted and in which the Battalion is participating is permissible in those instances as defined by the international agreements pertaining to such operation upon the order given by the proper commander.

Article 5

1. The soldiers of the Battalion's national contingents are performing active military service in compliance with the internal legislation of the country in which they are citizens.

2. In compliance with the internal legislation of the country in which the soldiers are citizens, the people in charge from their nation shall exercise

disciplinary authority over the soldiers of the relevant national contingent of the Battalion. The soldiers of the Battalion's national contingents shall bear disciplinary and criminal responsibility in compliance with the internal legislation of the country of which they are citizens while the proper bodies of that country shall have jurisdiction over these soldiers, save for paragraph 3 of this article.

3. If an act taken by a soldier is not related to the soldier's official duties, the said soldier shall bear criminal liability in compliance with the internal legislation of the country in which the said act was perpetrated and the proper bodies of that country shall have jurisdiction over such a soldier.

4. If an act taken by a soldier is related to the soldier's official duties:

(a) The military authorities of the sending country shall have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over that soldier in relation to offences committed solely against the property or security of that country and offences committed solely against the person or property of another member or civilian personnel of the armed forces of that country;

(b) The authorities of the receiving country shall have the primary right to exercise jurisdiction over that soldier in relation to any other offences.

Article 6

1. A separate agreement shall specify the status and conditions for the presence of Ukrainian soldiers on Polish soil and the status and conditions for the presence of Polish soldiers on Ukrainian soil in connection with discharging their official duties.

2. A separate agreement concluded with the organization listed in article 2 of this Agreement shall specify the manner whereby the soldiers of this Battalion are to be sent to a region in which an international peace operation in which the Battalion is participating is being conducted as well as their status and the conditions for their presence there.

Article 7

1. Separate training of the soldiers in the national contingents of the Battalion shall be conducted according to a uniform programme in the places of their permanent location and in national training facilities.

2. Joint training sessions will be conducted for the Battalion's soldiers according to agreed-upon plans and programmes.

3. A separate agreement executed by the ministries of defence of the Parties hereto shall specify the detailed principles of and the manner for protecting the Battalion's safety during joint training as well as during its preparations for actions in an international peace operation in which it is to participate.

Article 8

1. The information considered to be classified by the bodies of the Parties hereto which is conveyed to the other Party in connection with the execution of this Agreement is subject to protection in compliance with the binding internal legislation of the country of the Party which received such information while treating the information with the degree of secrecy that is equivalent to the degree of secrecy of its own information. Neither Party hereto has the right to disclose any such information whatsoever to any third party without the written consent of the Party which conveyed such information.

2. The detailed principles and methods for securing the information mentioned in paragraph 1 of this article shall be agreed upon on a case-by-case basis by the proper military bodies of the Parties hereto.

Article 9

1. The appropriate bodies of the armed forces to which the Battalion's national contingents belong are responsible for supplying them with armaments, military equipment, ammunition and materials, for ensuring that they are provided with living and financial conditions for the duration of training and for preparing them to act on the territory on which an international peace operation is being conducted in which the Battalion is participating.

2. The detailed principles and the methods for resolving the issues enumerated in paragraph 1 of this article shall be agreed upon individually by the proper bodies of the armed forces of the Parties hereto for each specific case.

3. A separate agreement shall specify the principles for providing logistic support (in regard to materials, technical matters, transportation, housing, medical care and others) and for organizing the Battalion's communications in the region in which an international peace operation is being conducted and in which it is participating, along with other detailed matters related thereto.

Article 10

1. The Battalion is funded by the Parties in proportion to the sizes of their national contingents, as specified in conformity with paragraph 3 of article 1.

2. The bodies of the armed forces to which the Battalion's national contingents belong shall be responsible for funding them during training and preparations to participate in an operation in which the Battalion is to participate.

3. The funding of the Battalion's national contingents during an international peace operation in which the Battalion is taking part shall incorporate that which has been determined by the international organization which is conducting the operation.

4. A separate agreement executed between the ministries of defence of the Parties thereto shall specify the detailed principles for and the methods whereby the Battalion is to be financed, including insurance for the people involved, armaments and military equipment and the financial settlements on training the Battalion and providing it with supplies as well as the expenditures related to the presence of the Battalion's Ukrainian contingent on Polish soil and the presence of the Battalion's Polish contingent on Ukrainian soil when discharging their official duties and related to the Battalion's actions in the region where an international peace operation is being conducted in which the Battalion is participating.

Article 11

1. The bodies of the armed forces to which a soldier belongs who caused damage or whose citizen being a third party hereto caused the said damage shall bear liability for providing compensation for damages against a soldier or the property of one of the Battalion's national contingents.

2. The bodies of the armed forces to which a soldier belongs who caused damage to third parties or their property shall bear liability for providing compensation.

3. The provisions of paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article do not exclude the recourse liability of soldiers and third persons as derived from the internal legislation of the country in which they are citizens.

4. A separate agreement executed between the ministries of defence of the Parties hereto shall specify the scope of liability for damages mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this article and the detailed principles and manner for proceeding to set the amount of damages, to disburse and refund such compensation against damages caused.

Article 12

The Parties hereto hereby establish the Ukrainian-Polish Working Group composed of the representatives of the Ministry of Defence of Ukraine and the Ministry of National Defence in the Republic of Poland to handle all matters related to the establishment, equipment, training and operation of the Battalion on an ongoing basis. The co-chairmen of this Working Group shall be those persons appointed by each of the ministers, where each Party shall appoint one person.

Article 13

Disputes pertaining to the interpretation or execution of this A[illegible]ment shall be resolved by way of direct consultation and discussion between the Parties without turning to any external jurisdiction.

Article 14

This Agreement does not violate the rights and duties delineated in the bilateral and multilateral agreements signed by the Parties hereto with other countries and international organizations.

Article 15

1. This Agreement shall be subject to ratification by each of the Parties agreeing hereto in conformity with the provisions of its internal law, which shall be confirmed by way of an exchange of notes. This Agreement shall come into force 30 days after the latter note is received. The Parties hereto shall jointly inform the United Nations about the establishment of this Battalion.

2. Amendments and supplements in the form of protocols constituting an integral part of this Agreement may be made with the consent of the Parties to this Agreement.

3. This Agreement is executed for an indefinite period of time. It may be terminated at any time by either of the Parties hereto by giving notification. In such case the Agreement shall expire 30 days after the day when the other Party receives notification, but no earlier than the day on which the last national contingent returns to its own country from an international peace operation in which the Battalion is participating.

4. The loss of this Agreement's legal force does not breach the Parties' rights to extend claims on the expenditures on the Battalion's training, supply, preparations and actions as mentioned in articles 7, 9 and 10 of this Agreement or for compensation as mentioned in article 11 of this Agreement.

This Agreement is signed in Warsaw on this the 26th day of 1997 in two identical counterparts, where each of the said counterparts has been drawn up in the Ukrainian, Polish and English languages and where all of these texts are of equal force. If there are any discrepancies in their interpretation, the text drawn up in the English language shall be considered to be decisive.

On behalf of Ukraine:

(Signature)
Minister of Defence

On behalf of the Republic of Poland:

(Signature)
Minister of National Defence

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Fifty-third session
Items 94, 95 and 96 of the preliminary list*

MACROECONOMIC POLICY QUESTIONS

SECTORAL POLICY QUESTIONS

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION

Letter dated 11 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am enclosing herewith a letter addressed to you jointly by the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to the United Nations accompanying the Joint Declaration of the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit held in Dhaka on 15 January 1998 and requesting that their letter and the Declaration be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 94, 95 and 96 of the preliminary list.

It would be appreciated if the necessary action with regard to the request contained in the letter from three Permanent Representatives could be taken as early as possible.

(Signed) F. A. Shamim AHMED
Chargé d'affaires a.i. and
Deputy Permanent Representative
to the United Nations
New York

* A/53/50.

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ANNEX

Letter dated 5 February 1998 from the Permanent Representatives of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Governments of Bangladesh, India and Pakistan, we have the pleasure of forwarding herewith the text of the Joint Declaration of the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit, held in Dhaka on 15 January 1998.

It is requested that the present letter along with the text of the Joint Declaration be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under items 94, 95 and 96 of the preliminary list.

(Signed)
Anwarul Karim CHOWDHURY
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
of Bangladesh to the
United Nations
New York

(Signed)
Kamalesh SHARMA
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
of India to the
United Nations
New York

(Signed)
Ahmad KAMAL
Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
of Pakistan to the
United Nations
New York

APPENDIX

Joint Declaration of the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit, held at Dhaka on 15 January 1998

1. At the invitation of the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, His Excellency Inder Kumar Gujral, and the Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, visited Bangladesh for the Bangladesh-India-Pakistan Business Summit. The Prime Ministers met at the Summit in Dhaka on 15 January 1998.

2. Noting that Bangladesh, India and Pakistan together have a population of more than 1 billion, the Heads of Government recalled that these countries possessed vast human and natural resources which offered great opportunities for economic and social development for the benefit of their peoples. The pervasive poverty in these countries warranted urgent action for accelerating the growth process. It was felt that an environment of peace and security within the framework of the objectives, principles and provisions of the Charter of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was essential for rapid and sustained progress. The Heads of Government pledged their commitment to consolidate and strengthen the ongoing efforts to achieve sustainable development.

3. The Heads of Government welcomed the opportunities presented by the globalization of the world economy but expressed concern that this posed special difficulties for the developing countries. They emphasized that the continued positive participation of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in the global economy, required a fair and supportive international economic environment.

4. The Heads of Government noted that many developing countries are engaged in liberalizing their economies and have contributed significantly to the growth of world output and trade. They need greater access to markets in the developed countries and to capital and technology in this process.

5. Having noted that foreign direct investment has been growing rapidly over the last few years, linking national economies and influencing the economic growth and welfare of developing countries, the Heads of Government observed that the flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) has been uneven. They emphasized that the South Asian region was an attractive destination for FDI, with its abundant availability of natural resources, skilled labour at competitive rates and a combined market of over 1 billion people. The Heads of Government agreed on the need for harmonization of relevant laws, rules and regulations of the three countries for promoting foreign investment.

6. The Heads of Government noted that there was considerable scope for promoting investment through mutual cooperation. There were opportunities for setting up joint ventures for serving both domestic and export markets. They underscored the need for arrangements for investment promotion and protection,

avoidance of double taxation and a mechanism for settlement of commercial disputes.

7. The Heads of Government noted that inadequate communication facilities were a major hindrance to closer economic cooperation. They stressed the importance of developing infrastructure and an adequate communication network for reinforcing and accelerating the process of economic cooperation. In this context, they emphasized the importance of strengthening infrastructure such as transportation, communication and information for facilitating expansion of trade and investment.

8. Recognizing the importance of the private sector, the Heads of Government reaffirmed their determination to encourage the private sector to contribute increasingly in the areas of trade, investment and finance.

9. The Heads of Government underlined the importance of the effective use of human resources and their continued upgrading and enrichment through education, skills training and improved health, sanitation and nutrition. There was scope for cooperation through utilization of institutional and training facilities.

10. Reiterating their commitment to the liberalization of trade in the region, the Heads of Government reaffirmed the goal of achieving a free trade area in South Asia by 2001. They agreed on the need to progressively reduce tariffs and remove quantitative restrictions, non-tariff and para-tariff barriers and other structural impediments to trade to achieve this goal. Recognizing the need to foster development of the least developed economies, they agreed to provide special trade concessions for the least developed countries of the region on a non-reciprocal basis for the development of equitable trade relations with those countries.

11. They also emphasized the need for harmonization of customs procedures, improvement of shipping and port facilities and simplification of visa procedures for rapid growth of trade. In this context, they reiterated their commitment to accelerate regional cooperation and underscored that regional cooperation was indispensable in an interdependent world.

12. Noting that cooperation in the field of science and technology was imperative in ensuring global competitiveness and acceleration of the process of development in the region and recognizing the progress made in this field, the Heads of Government emphasized the need to continue cooperation in this area, especially in facilitating research and exchange of information in the fields of technology, energy, engineering and low-cost housing.

13. The Heads of Government were of the view that greater consultations among the delegations of these countries in international forums on issues of common concern would be in the interest of all. Adoption of a coordinated approach on the issue of investment and on labour standards, environment and other technical barriers to trade in the World Trade Organization would be particularly important.

14. The Heads of Government felt that the Summit had been very constructive and useful. They expressed their desire to continue this kind of initiative and take follow-up action.

15. The Heads of Government of India and Pakistan congratulated the Prime Minister of Bangladesh for taking the initiative to host a Business Summit. They were of the view that this Summit would greatly contribute to strengthening mutual cooperation. They expressed their sincere appreciation for the manner in which the Prime Minister of Bangladesh had conducted the meeting and guided the proceedings. They also expressed their deep gratitude for the warm and generous hospitality extended to them by the Government and people of Bangladesh.

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Fifty-third session
Item 54 of the preliminary list*
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION
OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Letter dated 23 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the message sent to you today by His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of Pakistan (see annex). It would be appreciated if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under item 54 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalid Aziz BABAR
Acting Permanent Representative

* A/53/50.

ANNEX

Message dated 23 February 1998 from the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Secretary-General

I have just learned with great satisfaction that you have successfully reached an agreement with the Iraqi leadership on the weapons inspection issue, which, if approved by the Security Council, will, it is hoped, resolve the crisis in the Gulf. This would represent the success of diplomacy rather than the use of force.

I note that one of the key elements in the accord is ensuring respect for Security Council resolutions governing the inspection regime in Iraq. This illustrates what I had mentioned in my letter to you of 21 February that the implementation of all Security Council resolutions, whether they pertain to Iraq, Kashmir, Lebanon, Palestine or any other issue, is critical for the maintenance of global and regional peace and security.

The second main element of the agreement, which pertains to the preservation of the integrity of the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) charged with overseeing the disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, further highlights the need for the implementation of all Security Council resolutions in letter and spirit.

The Security Council decision to increase the oil-for-food programme for Iraq, authorizing the latter to sell US$ 5.2 billion worth of oil every six months, is also a welcome development. This will contribute to alleviating the sufferings of the people of Iraq.

Muhammad Nawaz SHARIF

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Items 86 and 157 of the preliminary list*

COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

MEASURES TO ELIMINATE INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Letter dated 20 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine issued on 20 February 1998 regarding the terrorist act committed against the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia on 19 February 1998 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under items 86 and 157 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) Volodymyr YEL'CHENKO
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative
of Ukraine to the
United Nations

* A/53/50.

98-04193 (E) 250298 260298

ANNEX

Statement issued on 20 February 1998 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine regarding the act of terrorism committed against the personnel of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia on 19 February 1998

It is with indignation and grave concern that people in Ukraine received the report of the brazen act of terrorism perpetrated on 19 February 1998 in Georgia - an attack against the representatives of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia and a hostage-taking of four military observers of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expresses its serious concern at the heightening of tension in the region. The Ministry emphasizes once again the inadmissibility of resorting to force and to acts of terrorism as a means of solving political differences.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon the representatives of the opposition in Georgia to refrain from unreasonable actions that could cause further destabilization of the political and social situation in the region and bring about an escalation of the conflict. In its turn, such destabilization might have a negative impact on the situation in the Caucasus as a whole.

There is confidence in Ukraine that the friendly Georgian people and the leadership of Georgia will have enough wisdom and tolerance to undertake decisive and considered measures aimed at achieving civil peace and accord in the country.

The recent developments in Georgia have highlighted the need to take urgent measures to ensure the early entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel as an important means of protecting United Nations personnel in areas of conflict. In this regard, Ukraine urges the Member States of the United Nations who have already signed the Convention to ratify it as soon as possible.